

Mail Stop PCT
Attorney docket no. 26334
Preliminary Amendment

ATTACHMENT A

Please amend the specification on page 5, 3rd paragraph, line 21, as follows:

The availability of the above colloidal dispersions is a good starting point to disperse uniformly α -zirconium phosphate or zirconium phosphate-sulfoarylenphosphonates into a polymeric matrix. In addition, since the size of the lamellar particles in these dispersions depends to a great extent on the size of the particles of the starting material, it is possible to fill the polymeric matrix with lamellar particles of controlled size and shape. As mentioned above, this is a clear advantage in comparison with the in situ formation of α -zirconium phosphate reported in the already cited international patent ~~WO96/7952~~ WO 96/29752 and appears to be particularly important in order to control the reduction of membrane permeability to the fuel and specifically to methanol.